



# The Stafford Newsletter



Volume 38, Issue 1

Circulation 7,000+

January 2017

**In the Civic Center at 1415 Constitution Avenue**

## **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING SET FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, AT 7 P.M.**

The Annual Town Meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, January 25, 2017 at 7:00 PM at the Stafford Civic Center located at 1415 Constitution Avenue.

Upon reflection, a majority of City Council desired to streamline the Annual Meeting to allow the citizen participation to occur earlier in the meeting. Therefore, the format was streamlined to allow the Mayor to deliver his Annual Message regarding the city's accomplishments and future city goals. After the Mayor's Message, Council Members will have up to five minutes each to respond to the Mayor's Message or deliver their individual message starting with the Mayor Pro Tem and ending with the newest member of Council. The public wishing to address the Mayor and Council will be afforded the opportunity to speak for up to five minutes each in regards to matters listed on the agenda or the Mayor's Message. The agenda which can be obtained at City Hall or viewed on the City website ([www.staffordtx.gov](http://www.staffordtx.gov)) encompasses every aspect of City operations and is the basis for the Annual Town Meeting. Once the public has concluded its questions and/or comments, the Mayor and Council will each have five minutes to make their closing comments.

The Annual Town Meeting will be televised on SMETV. All citizens or interested parties are encouraged to attend and address the Mayor and Council on matters affecting the City.

### **Failure of pumper dictates need for new truck**

## **CITY ACQUIRES NEW LADDER FIRE TRUCK**

Shortly after the new FY 2016-2017 budget had been approved the Fire Chief Larry DiCamillo informed the Mayor that the 2004 Ladder Fire Truck had serious mechanical problems and that the pump on this vehicle had become inoperative. After considering extensive and expensive repairs, it was Determined that the most responsible solution was to acquire a new ladder fire truck. The cost: over \$1 million.

This new truck will be fully equipped which is illustrated with a 107- foot ladder to better assist the addressing of fires in our taller commercial buildings as well as multi story residences.

As a result, the departments operations with its recent addition of full time firefighting personnel will be enhanced.

The new truck, which was received last month is now fully operational.



City of Stafford New Ladder Truck

# SANTA’S VILLAGE BIG SUCCESS

This year’s much anticipated Santa’s Village was a huge success with the largest turn out ever.

Santa arrived on the Fire Truck and was greeted by a crowd of excited youngsters. Once inside the Stafford Centre, pictures with the delighted kiddies were taken.

An abundance of excitement was caused by the numerous booths supplied by City departments. Those departments were *Finance* on preparing reindeer food, *Permits* on making Christmas decorations *Administration* on how to write to Santa and on face painting, *Courts* on frosting cookies, and pictures to long remember the event were supplied by the *Police* and *SMETV*.

The Fire Department gained many young admirers when it escorted “Santa Claus” on the arriving Fire Truck.



Two lucky children visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus

Additionally, the City provided free hot-dogs, cookies and ice-cream for all the attendees.

City staff qualified as Santa’s elves by elaborately hosting the various festivities.

Vendors including Classic Chevrolet donated numerous children’s items, the most sought after were the several bicycles for the children of different ages.

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## “NO KILL” PROVISIONS SUGGESTED FOR NEW ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE



In November Mayor Leonard Scarcella convened a special committee to address revisions to the recently adopted Animal Control Ordinance. Sixteen persons, many of whom are strong animal rights advocates attended the workshop. Discussions centered around necessary policies and accommodations for the inclusion of “no kill” provisions for dogs and cats.

In this regard the city’s current arrangements with City of Missouri City has provided the sheltering and preservation of dogs very much in the way intended by the ordinance. Lacking however, was the ability to control feral cats. This past spring during the discussions of the Ordinance emphasized was the need for a Trap, Neuter and Return (TNR) program, which would require the assistance from independent organizations. To date no organized

group has stepped forward to assist, which led the committee to advocate the formation of a 501(c)3 charitable organization to initiate a concerted effort towards this goal.



It was further acknowledged for this program to be effective the City would have to build an appropriate shelter. Considering the agreement for the use of the Missouri City Shelter over the short term, it is necessary the City began serious planning for the erection and operation of its own animal facility. The committee will be reconvening soon and endeavoring to develop recommendations for this effort to be presented to City Council in late winter.





*"The Best Little School District in Texas"*

# SPOTLIGHT

WINTER 2017

Thank You!  
Thank You!  
Thank You!



## FROM THE DESK OF SUPERINTENDENT BOSTIC

Hello Spartan Family,

We are so glad to have everyone back after the 2016 Christmas Break! We hope that all of the students, faculty and staff will be re-energized for a successful Spring Semester at SMSD.

Before we delve into 2017, I believe some congratulations are in order. Our Stafford High Band advanced to the Regional Competition in Portland, Texas. Our Stafford High Football Team reached the Regional Championship Game vs. Carthage. It was a historic year for both of these proud SMSD traditions!

Speaking of tradition, our community has a long-held tradition of helping others in need during the holiday. On Dec. 9, we partnered with ABC Channel 13's "Share Your Holidays" to donate a van full of food — and then even more. No School District in our County donated more, per capita. We are certainly a generous bunch.

Two-Thousand and Seventeen is an exciting time to be a Spartan. We begin the year with School Board Appreciation Month. These seven individuals (six gentleman and a lady) work tirelessly, donating their time to preserve the high quality of education that you have come to expect from SMSD. They are constantly thinking of ways to improve the already-wonderful SMSD experience!

This year is an important one for Public Education across the state, and we encourage you to let your elected officials in Austin know that Public Education deserves to be a priority for them and their colleagues. There is information inside the newsletter that expands upon this item.

**Dr. Robert Bostic, Superintendent**



## Mark Your Calendar!

M.L.K. Jr. Holiday. . . . .	Jan 16
"Grease" Musical. . . . .	Jan 20-22
Nutrition Ed Classes . . . . .	Jan 23
Super 55+ Seniors' Breakfast. . . . .	Feb 10
School Board Meeting. . . . .	Feb 13
SMSD Ed. Foundation Gala. . . . .	Feb 17
Super 55+ Seniors' Breakfast. . . . .	Mar 10
Spring Break. . . . .	Mar 13-17
School Board Meeting. . . . .	Mar 20
Good Friday Holiday. . . . .	April 14
Super 55+ Seniors' Breakfast. . . . .	May 12
Student Holiday. . . . .	Apr 15
High School Graduation. . . . .	Jun 2

Visit [www.staffordmsd.org](http://www.staffordmsd.org) for an updated calendar of events



Communities shape the education provided Stafford children and SMSD is eager to engage our *Super Seniors* in what they want our children to learn. If you are 55 or older and want to learn about Stafford Municipal School District, you are invited to a monthly breakfast prepared by our Culinary Arts students. Call 281-261-9219 or email [partners@staffordmsd.org](mailto:partners@staffordmsd.org) for more information.



# Students, Parents & Employees in Action



## HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

Stafford MSD was proud to participate in ABC Channel 13's "Share Your Holidays" Food Drive. We collected more food per capita than any School District in Fort Bend County.

All of the donations will go to the East Fort Bend Human Needs Ministry.

This was a rewarding experience for the students and the entire community. We had a friendly competition among the campuses. The campus with the most donations would receive a Pizza Party this year, courtesy of Marco's Pizza in Stafford. We will make an announcement soon on the winning campus!



## RELIANT AND HOUSTON TEXANS SCHOLARSHIP

Stafford High School senior **Taten Blue** was awarded a \$5,000 Reliant Scholarship for Champions! Presented by J.J. Moses, former Houston Texan and current Houston Texan Ambassador, Taten was nominated for the award for demonstrating exceptional performances in academics, athletics, community service, and leadership. Reliant, in partnership with the Houston Texans, selects the winners and awards them with funds for higher education. Taten was honored at a Texans home game last month!



### Does your high school student:

- ⇒ Enjoy hands-on, highly relevant lessons?
- ⇒ Want to save money on college tuition by earning college credit while fulfilling their high school graduation requirements?
- ⇒ Want to earn a career certificate to work?

**Then the Stafford College and Career Center is the place for them!**

Stafford Municipal School District's College and Career Center offers courses that are designed to prepare students with the technical and professional skills necessary to succeed in today's high-demand occupational environment. Students have the opportunity to utilize their academic skills in the following career fields: Law/Criminal Justice, Business Management, Business Administration and Marketing, Graphic Arts, Broadcasting and Telecommunications, Health Sciences, Information Technology, Engineering, Agriculture, Culinary Arts, Early Childhood Education, Automotive Technology, and Manufacturing. All of the Academy programs are technical based, rigorous, relevant, and aligned with Business/Industry Standards for the 21st Century workforce. Students will have an opportunity to enter the job market with high-paying skills or they may continue their education after graduating from High School. Many of the Academy programs offer articulation and/or dual credit with neighboring postsecondary community colleges allowing students to earn college credit while fulfilling high school graduation requirements. Please contact Deborah Nordt, Director for Stafford College and Career Center at [dnordt@staffordmsd.org](mailto:dnordt@staffordmsd.org) for a tour or enrollment information.



Stafford MSD's **Hour of Code** took place last month. It was hosted by the SMSD Technology Department.

Coding is the language of Technology, an industry that is expected to have more and more jobs in the coming years and decades.

Members of the SMSD Technology Department, including SMSD Instructional Technologist Tammie Myers (pictured above) were glad to introduce the students to the exciting world of Coding, and to help enhance the skills of students who had experience with it.



Stafford MSD's CIA Team (Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment) played a key role in the District earning 16 Texas Education Agency (TEA) Distinctions in 2015-16.

The CIA Team has spearheaded District-wide Initiatives in Math and Literacy, and they are committed to ensuring future success for SMSD!

## STAFFORD CHOIR MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

Friday, Jan. 20 at 7:30 PM; Saturday, Jan. 21 at 7 PM; Sunday, Jan. 22 at 3:00 PM

Stafford Centre

Purchase your tickets online now at [www.staffordcentre.com](http://www.staffordcentre.com), by phone at 281-208-6900, or in person at the Stafford Centre Administrative Office Monday-Friday from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

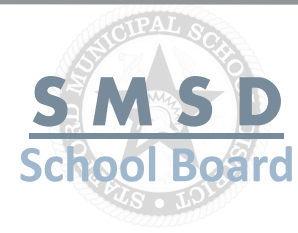
Advanced ticket prices are: General admission \$10, Orchestra \$15, Box \$25 & student tickets \$5.

For additional information email [lprice@staffordmsd.org](mailto:lprice@staffordmsd.org) or call 281-261-9200, x.3944

**Grease** is the 16<sup>th</sup> annual spring musical to be presented by the Stafford Choirs and is co-sponsored by SMSD, City of Stafford and Stafford Choral Boosters. It is a timeless and beloved music that our entire community will enjoy!







**Auturo Jackson**  
President

**Christopher Caldwell**  
Vice-President

**Xavier Herrera**  
Secretary

**Rodney Butler**  
Trustee

**Alicia Lacy-Castille**  
Trustee

**Greg Holsapple**  
Trustee

**Manuel Hinojosa**  
Trustee

The Board of Trustees meets monthly on the second Monday at 6:30 PM in the SMUSD Administration Building Board Room. Meeting agendas, information about each agenda item and past meeting videos are linked to the district website under the Board of Education.

Upcoming Meeting Dates: January 9, February 13, March 20, April 10 & May 8, 2017.

## Trustee Election (May 2017)

The Stafford MSD School Board will hold its annual officials' election on Saturday, May 6, 2017. Candidate application packets for the general election ballot are available at the SMUSD Administration Building. The general election ballot will be for two seats for positions with three-year terms.

The first day to file an application for a place on the general election ballot is Wednesday, January 18, 2017. The last day to file an application for a place on the general election ballot is Friday, February 17, 2017. The school district conducts its election jointly with the City of Stafford. For additional information, call 281-261-9219 or email [partners@staffordmsd.org](mailto:partners@staffordmsd.org).



## Community & Business Partners in Action



**COLLEGE  
COMMUNITY  
CAREER**

CollegeCommunityCareer fosters a college-going culture with low income, first generation high school students and families. Founded by Kathy and Bill Rose, the nonprofit organization prepares high school students for admission to and graduation from a four year university. The program supports students

by providing them with the skills to be successful in college, leadership development, civic engagement and career discovery. In September, the SMUSD School Board approved an agreement with the organization to provide services for select Stafford High School students. To learn more about this unique program, go to [www.collegecommunitycareer.org](http://www.collegecommunitycareer.org)

Parent University is an opportunity for parents to learn what their children are learning in school and ways to effectively assist in their learning. All Stafford Schools hosted Parent University events in October and November. Teachers modeled ways parents can engage their children in learning and support their reading, writing, math and science skills attainment. With the assistance of community partners from Houston Community College, CollegeCommunityCareer, and others, the Middle and High Schools provided parents with sessions on dual credit, pre-AP and AP instruction, career and technical course awareness, certification options, college preparation and planning, SAT/ACT tests, financial aid, community college, financial planning for college, and scholarship opportunities. Parent University events are scheduled throughout the year.



### Partnership with North American University

There is a new University in Stafford — North American University — on West Airport Road.

The Stafford High Color Guard presented the colors at the University's Grand Opening, and Mayor Leonard Scarcella gave a speech.

We are proud to welcome this Institution of Higher Learning into our Community!



The Stafford MSD Education Foundation will host its First Annual Gala at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, February 17 at the Stafford Centre.

This year's theme is "Mardi Gras".

The SMUSD Education Foundation's proceeds are used exclusively to impact students through scholarships and classroom grants. Companies registering for the Gala are welcome to reward employees, entertain clients, or thank customers. As a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Sponsorship and registration information is available at [www.staffordmsd.org](http://www.staffordmsd.org) on the SMUSD Education Foundation page, by emailing [foundation@staffordmsd.org](mailto:foundation@staffordmsd.org) or calling 281-261-9219.



Municipal / Educational Television

The Stafford Municipal Education Television (SMETV) through a partnership with Houston Community College creates quality video programs shown on Comcast Channel 16 and linked to the district's website from the "About Us" section.



### SMSD-Starbucks Partnership

Stafford MSD is proud to announce that the Stafford Starbucks location will present a free coffee and a free pastry to the Teacher of the Month at each of the five campuses, each month.

We are grateful for the strong relationship between SMSD and Stafford Starbucks.

Last semester, Stafford Starbucks provided coffee and pastries to the entire SMUSD staff!



# Athletics

**Athletic Director:** Ron Counter  
**Athletic Trainer:** Dalton LaFrance

### Spartans Football Makes History

The Stafford High School Varsity Football Team advanced to the UIL Class 4A Regional Finals (State Quarterfinals). They earned their first-ever Area Championship, their fifth Bi-District Championship and played a game in December for the first-time in school history.

The Spartans played well-enough to win a 4A State Championship, falling by just 1 point (27-26) to perennial state power, Carthage.



### Volleyball Update

The Lady Spartans Volleyball team was within one game of qualifying for the playoffs, earning two victories over Royal and one over Bellville.

Stafford placed second in the Spartan Tournament. Alexis Williams made First Team All-District and was second in the District Newcomer of the Year voting. Talya Monroe was Second Team All-District.

### Cross Country

Junior Diana Gonzales qualified for the Regional Cross Country Meet in Corpus Christi.

### Spartan Football Players sign scholarships, graduate early

Stafford High seniors Hezekiah Jones and Jalen Pitre graduated a semester early from SHS and begin their college journeys this month.

Jones, a wide receiver, signed with Texas A&M — a member of the Southeastern Conference, while Pitre, a safety, signed with Baylor—a member of the Big 12 Conference. They will participate in Spring Drills for their respective universities this spring.



## Sports Schedules

### High School Boys Soccer

Date	Opponent	Time	Teams	Site
Jan 12-14	Brenham Select Cup	TBA	Varsity	Brenham
Jan 17	Palacios	5/7	JV/V	Palacios
Jan 19	Pasadena Rayburn	5	JV	Stafford
Jan 20	El Campo	5	Varsity	Stafford
Jan 24	Navasota	5/7	JV/Var	Navasota
Feb 3	Columbus	5	Varsity	Stafford
Feb 10	Sealy	5/7	JV/Var	Stafford
Feb 13	Columbia	7	Varsity	Columbia
Feb 17	Needville	7	Varsity	Needville
Feb 22	Royal	5/7	Varsity	Royal
Feb 24	Bellville	7	Varsity	Stafford
Feb 27	Sealy	5/7	JV/Var	Sealy
Mar 6	Needville	7	Varsity	Needville
Mar 10	Royal	5/7	JV/Var	Stafford
Mar 13	Bellville	7	Varsity	Bellville

### High School Girls Soccer

Date	Opponent	Time	Teams	Site
Jan 17	Lamar Consolidated	5/7	JV/V	Stafford
Jan 20	El Campo	7	Varsity	Stafford
Jan 23	Palacios	7	Varsity	Palacios
Feb. 3	Alief Taylor	5/7	JV/Var	Alief Taylor
Feb 10	Sealy	5/7	JV/Var	Sealy
Feb 13	Columbus	5	Varsity	Columbus
Feb 17	Needville	5/7	JV/Var	Stafford
Feb 22	Royal	5/7	JV/Var	Royal
Feb 24	Bellville	6	Varsity	Stafford
Feb 27	Sealy	5/7	Varsity	Stafford
Mar 6	Needville	5/7	JV/Var	Needville
Mar 10	Royal	5/7	JV/Var	Stafford
Mar 13	Bellville	6	Varsity	Bellville

### High School Boys Basketball

Date	Opponent	Time	Teams	Site
Jan 13	Royal	5/6:15/7:30	FR/JV/Var	Royal
Jan 17	Bellville	5/6:15/7:30	FR/JV/Var	Stafford
Jan 20	Sealy	5/6:15/7:30	FR/JV/Var	Sealy
Jan 24	Needville	5/6:15/7:30	FR/JV/Var	Stafford
Jan 27	Columbus	5/6:15/7:30	FR/JV/Var	Columbus
Jan 31	Royal	5/6:15/7:30	FR/JV/Var	Stafford
Feb 3	Bellville	5/6:15/7:30	FR/JV/Var	Bellville
Feb 7	Sealy (Sr. Night)	5/6:15/7:30	FR/JV/Var	Stafford
Feb 10	Needville	5/6:15/7:30	FR/JV/Var	Needville
Feb 14	Columbus	5/6:15/7:30	FR/JV/Var	Stafford

### High School Girls Basketball

Date	Opponent	Time	Teams	Site
Jan 13	Royal	5:00/6:30	JV/V	Royal
Jan 17	Bellville	5/6:30	JV/V	Stafford
Jan 20	Sealy	5/6:15/7:30	FR/JV/V	Sealy
Jan 24	Needville	5/6:15/7:30	FR/JV/V	Stafford
Jan 27	Columbus	5/6:15/7:30	FR/JV/V	Columbus
Jan 31	Royal (Sr. Night)	5/6:30	JV/V	Stafford
Feb 3	Bellville	5/6:30	JV/V	Bellville
Feb 7	Sealy	5/6:15/7:30	FR/JV/V	Stafford

**Baseball and Softball:** HS Baseball and Softball District 24-4A season begins March 2016 (schedules in the Spring Spotlight).



**"There's an App for That!"**

"As part of our commitment to keeping you aware of district activities, we have created a navigable mobile app with resources, tools, and a new visual design.

Knowing that you depend on our research and insight to develop new, innovative ideas and strengthen policy and practice, we've built our new mobile site to make it much easier to find and share resources.

Reflecting our long-standing commitment to learning and continuous improvement, we welcome your feedback as we continue to improve this site."

*- Willie Roberts Jr.*  
Director of Technology



# FOUR COUNCIL SEATS UP IN MAY ELECTION



Mayor  
Leonard Scarcella



Councilman  
Wen Guerra



Councilman  
A.J. Honore



Councilwoman  
Virginia Rosas

Four positions currently held on City Council, namely those by Mayor Leonard Scarcella and Council Members Wen Guerra, A.J. Honore and Virginia Rosas, will be up for the Saturday, May 6 election.

Persons interested in running for any of these positions can obtain a candidate's packet at City Hall with the necessary information and forms to be used by the candidate.

Simultaneously will be the election for two members to the SMSD Board of Trustees, Candidate application packets are available at the SMSD Administration Building.

The first day for filing an application to appear on the ballot is Wednesday January 18 while Friday, February 17, is the last day to file for a place on the ballot.

Citizens desiring to vote in the election must submit a voter registration application by Thursday, April 6. Early voting will begin on Monday, April 24, and run through Tuesday, May 2 at City Hall and other locations. Election day voting will occur exclusively at City Hall on Saturday May 6.

Further information will appear in the April issue of the *Newsletter*.



## BULLETIN BOARD

### STAFFORD CENTRE EVENTS

**January:** Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 14<sup>th</sup>– Fred Astaire Dance Academy “**DANCESCAPE**”  
Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> SMSD Choir presents- “**GREASE**”  
Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> – Texwood Shows “**7<sup>th</sup> Annual Sugar Land Home & Garden Show**”

**February:** Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup> – Frank and Barbara Tribute “The concert that never was”  
Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> – Concert by “America”



**February 17<sup>th</sup> 7:30 p.m.** SMSD Education Foundation is proud to present  
“**2017 Mardi Gras Soiree Royale**” Fundraiser Gala.



March 11<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 p.m. – Youth represent the world [Hope & Respect]  
Hosted by: Chung Mei Buddhist Temple (BLIA) and co-sponsored by The City of Stafford.

**FREE ADMISSION**

**CITY OFFICES CLOSED**  
**Monday February 20, 2017 –**  
**President's Day**



**Tree Limb Pick-up:** First Monday of **JANUARY, APRIL, JULY AND OCTOBER**



**Residential Trash Pick-up :** Days are **Monday and Thursday** or a **Tuesday and Friday**. There will be **NO** trash pick-up on a holiday. Your trash will be collected on your next scheduled pick-up day.



**BURGLAR / FIRE ALARM** – Renewed each year by January 31<sup>st</sup>.  
\$50.00 Residential Alarm  
\$250.00 Commercial Alarm  
PAYMENTS & APPLICATIONS CAN BE PAID FOR IN PERSON OR MAILED TO:  
City Hall, 2610 South Main St, Attn: Finance Dept., Stafford, TX 77477.

# MAYOR'S MESSAGE

As we embark on 2017, the City of Stafford has much reason for optimism. Lying in the heart of the energy capital of the world--recently paralyzed by a deep recession--the appointment by President Trump of four cabinet members with strong roots to oil and gas production promises significant benefits and vitality for the City's many oil and gas valve manufacturing companies, which provide a multitude of our quality jobs and is one of the most critical components of this City's economy.

This should serve as a spring board to the elevation of our heralded and unique accomplishments: zero property taxes, an abundance of excellent jobs, SMSD, alluring highway landscaping, fiscally prudent policies

and the Stafford Centre. For when the economy flourishes our citizens, businesses and workers prosper, and our City is placed on a glide path to greater excellence.

There are caveats: We must guard zealously against diminishing our cash resources, advocating costly projects with minimal benefits, and pandering to outsiders who contribute little while siphoning off opportunities from Staffordians.

With these thoughts in mind, the New Year offers a glowing promise for Stafford.



Leonard Scarcella, Mayor



**City of Stafford**  
**2610 South Main**  
**Stafford, TX 77477**

# SEDC MESSAGE

Happy New Year! 2017 holds a very bright future for the Stafford Economic Development Corporation and we are excited to see what the future holds! We have several new retail businesses that should make their debut in 2017 along with new jobs in the commercial sector. Sales tax in Stafford continues to remain steady and we are hoping that with the addition of new businesses and new jobs that we will begin to see this increase.

YOU are the city's best kept secret and we need your help to get the word out about all the great things that Stafford has going on. No one can boast a better location than Stafford with its easy access to both Hwy 59/I-69 and Beltway 8, close proximity to both major airports and the Texas

Medical Center and easy access to the Port of Houston. Help us get the word out that Stafford is open for business!

Work will begin soon on the projects that SEDC agreed to fund in the 2016-2017 budget including the expansion of the 1092 corridor, new sidewalk construction on Staffordshire Road from US90A south to Scanlin Road and the installation of new security measures to better monitor the primary commercial / retail areas of the city.

Stafford is on the move!



Wen Guerra, President SEDC